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# STATISTICAL SUMMARY

Agricultural Marketing Service, U.S.D.A. .... Washington, D. C. .... February 23, 1954 ..... SS 135

## Early February Farm Situation Nearly Normal

The situation over most of the country appeared to be nearly normal in early February. Weather was unseasonably mild in most areas the first half of January, then after a cold wave and storms in the North, turned warm again at the end of the month and early February. This has permitted farm work to make about usual progress generally.

### Soil Moisture

Many farmers are concerned about the relatively short supply of soil moisture in large portions of the country, but spring rains usually correct this. Snow packs in central portions of the Rocky Mountains are still short, but heavy snows usually come before spring. In Arizona, there is a serious deficiency on all water-sheds.

### Winter Wheat

Winter wheat has wintered well so far but still faces a hazardous period. Because of restricted acreage of wheat sown an increase in spring seedings of oats and barley appears likely with land preparation underway.

### Citrus Prospects Improve

Citrus fruit prospects have improved since January 1, indicating larger crops of oranges and grapefruit and no change in lemon production.

#### Feb. 1954 forecast

Oranges 124.8 million boxes 4% above 1952-53 crop  
and 18% above average  
Grapefruit 44.3 million boxes 16% above last year, but  
14% below average.

Fewer oranges are available for use after February 1 than a year earlier, but more grapefruit remain.

### Smaller Supplies Of Fresh Vegetables

Fresh market supplies of the 20 commercial vegetables produced during the 1954 winter season are expected to total about 5 percent less than last winter.

### Livestock and Poultry Inventory Down 1%

Total livestock and poultry on farms and ranches showed a net decrease of 1 percent during 1953. This is the first decline since 1949. The aggregate for January 1, 1954 is 9 percent below the peak of January 1, 1944.

### A Million More Cattle

Cattle and calves totaled 94,677,000 on January 1, 1954. Although this is a new high record, it is only 1 percent above a year earlier. The rate of rise was much less than in the previous two years.

Milk cows and heifers 2 years old and older numbered 24,755,000 head-3 percent more than a year ago but 3 percent less than the 10-year average.

## Hog Numbers Drop 11%

Hog numbers declined 11 percent from a year earlier to a total of 48,179,000 head. This is 24 percent below average. Every State had fewer hogs this year than last.

### Fewer Sheep

Stock sheep totaled 26,905,000 head-3 percent below a year earlier and 20 percent below the 1943-52 average.

### 10% Fewer Horses

Horses numbered 3,432,000 head on January 1-a decrease of 10 percent from a year earlier.

### 9% Fewer Mules

Mule numbers declined about 9 percent during 1953 to an estimated 1,603,000 head. The number is only 27 percent of the peak number of 5,918,000 head on farms in 1925.

### More Chickens

Chickens on farms January 1, 1954 (excluding commercial broilers) totaled 439,271,000-2 percent more than a year ago, but 10 percent less than the 1943-52 average. Farm flocks were made up of 64 percent pullets, 30 percent hens and 6 percent other chickens, compared with 59, 35, and 6 percent, respectively a year earlier.

### Same Number of Turkeys

Turkeys on January 1, 1954, totaled 5,323,000-about the same as a year earlier, but 10 percent below average.

### Current Indexes for Agriculture

Index Numbers	Base Period	Jan. 1954
Prices received by farmers .....	1910-14=100	259
Prices paid by farmers, interest, taxes and wage rates .....	1910-14=100	282
Parity ratio .....	1910-14=100	92
Farm wage rates .....	1910-14=100	525
Wholesale prices of food.....	1947-49=100	1/ 103
Retail prices of food .....	1947-49=100	1/ 112
Weekly factory earnings .....	1947-49=100	1/ 143
Production Comparisons	Jan. 1953	Jan. 1954
Milk, (bil. lb.) .....	8.7	9.2
Eggs, (bil.) .....	5.4	5.4
Beef, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	2/ 7,157	2/ 9,368
Lamb & Mutton (dr. wt., mil. lb.)...	2/ 581	2/ 644
Pork & lard, (mil. lb.).....	2/ 11,462	2/ 9,776
All meats, (dr. wt., mil. lb.).....	2/ 19,852	2/ 20,669

1/ December 1953 figure.

2/ January-December under Federal inspection.

## Livestock Inventory Value Declines 20 Percent

Inventory value of livestock and poultry on farms and ranches on January 1, 1954, stood at 11.9 billion dollars—20 percent below a year earlier and 39 percent below the record high of 19.6 billion dollars on January 1, 1952. On January 1, 1954, values per head were lower than a year earlier for cattle, sheep, and mules, but higher for hogs, horses, chickens and turkeys.

## Grain Stocks in all Positions January 1, 1954

	1,000 bushels	
Wheat	1,332,359	Record large; 1/6 larger than previous high, Jan. 1943.
Rye	21,335	Double the stocks a year earlier.
Corn	2,676,110	Within 10 million bushels of the Jan. 1950 record.
Oats	841,330	Below average.
Barley	177,110	Below average.
Sorghum grain	76,815	42% larger than year earlier but much less than on Jan. 1 of 4 years 1949-52.
Soybeans	188,476	Smallest Jan. 1 stocks since 1950.
Flaxseed	34,700	29% larger than a year earlier but 10 to 17% smaller than Jan. 1 stocks of 1949-51.

Stocks of the 4 feed grains—94.8 million tons—were 4 percent larger than a year earlier, but 5 percent smaller than peak of 100 million tons January 1, 1951.

## January Milk Production Record High

Milk production in January 1954 is estimated at 9,172 Million pounds—about 5 percent higher than a year ago, and more than 10 percent above average for the month. Grain and concentrate feeding continued at record heavy rates, with supplies of grains and roughages adequate in most areas.

## Record High January Egg Production

Farm flocks laid 5,448 million eggs in January, a record for the month—1 percent more than in January 1953 and 17 percent above the 1943-52 average. The rate of egg production per layer was a little less than a year earlier but above average. The Nation's laying flock in January was 2 percent larger than a year earlier but 4 percent smaller than average.

## Plan to Buy Same Number Baby Chicks as in 1953

Farmers plan to buy about the same number of chicks this year as they bought in 1953. Farmers in the North Central States plan to buy 6 percent fewer chicks this year. This decrease offsets increases planned in all other parts of the country except New England where no change is intended.

## Fewer of Heavy Breeds of Turkey Breeder Hens: More of Light Breeds

Turkey breeder hens of the heavy breeds totaled 2,681,000 birds on January 1, 1954—7 percent fewer than

a year earlier. Breeder hens of the light breeds increased 40 percent and totaled 679,000 birds.

## More Commercial Broilers in 1953

735 million broilers were produced in 1953 in 16 important States—9 percent more than in 1952. The 16 States produce about three-fourths of the Nation's broilers. Georgia led all States with 122 million birds; Arkansas was second with 74 million.

	1952	1953
Number produced..... (million)	677	735
Pounds produced..... (million)	2,032	2,224
Price per pound ..... (cents)	28.6	26.8
Gross income..... (\$1,000)	582	595

## Larger Concentrate Ration Fed Milk Cows

In 1953, milk cows were fed 18½ million tons of grains and concentrates—6 percent more than in 1952. The amount fed per milk cow reached a record high of

## Prices Received and Prices Paid by Farmers Index Numbers, 1910-14=100

Item	Jan. 1953	Dec. 1953	Jan. 1954
Prices received by farmers....	268	254	259
Crops .....	254	238	240
Food grains .....	245	230	233
Feed grains and hay.....	222	205	207
Tobacco .....	419	427	420
Cotton.....	253	260	254
Fruit.....	220	237	222
Com. veg. for fresh mkt....	263	224	271
Oil-bearing crops .....	291	269	268
Livestock and products .....	281	269	277
Meat animals .....	303	285	309
Dairy products.....	294	282	274
Poultry and eggs.....	218	218	213
Prices paid by farmers:			
All commodities .....	267	260	263
Commodities used in living	268	270	271
Commodities used in production .....	265	250	254
All commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates.....	284	278	282
Parity ratio (prices rec'd to prices paid by farmers).....	94	91	92

## Parity Prices for Farm Products and Average Prices Received by Farmers

Commodity and Unit	Average Price		Parity Price
	Dec. 15 1953	Jan. 15 1954	Jan. 15 1954
Wheat, bu..... dol.	2.01	2.03	2.48
Corn, bu..... dol.	1.41	1.42	1.80
Peanuts, lb..... ct.	11.0	11.1	13.4
Cotton, lb. 1/..... ct.	30.73	30.05	34.72
Potatoes, bu..... dol.	.699	.691	1.52
Hogs, 100 lb..... dol.	22.80	24.60	20.70
Beef cattle, 100 lb..... dol.	14.80	16.00	21.20
Calves, 100 lb..... dol.	15.80	17.80	23.30
Lambs, 100 lb..... dol.	17.30	18.60	23.00
Butterfat, lb..... ct.	66.3	65.9	74.7
Milk, wholesale, 100 lb.. dol.	4.58	2/ 4.38	4.74
Chickens, live, lb..... ct.	22.4	23.8	29.9
Eggs, doz..... ct.	48.5	46.3	46.8

1/ American upland cotton.

2/ Preliminary.



1,676 pounds, 2 percent above 1952 and almost one-fifth higher than a decade ago. Grains and concentrates fed per 100 pounds of milk produced on farms that sold milk and cream was 31 pounds, or about average.

In the 1953 winter feeding season milk cows in dairy reporters herds were fed an average of 2.2 tons of hay per cow, slightly less than in the previous winter but about in line with earlier years; silage fed per cow totaled 1.9 tons per cow, indicating a gradual increase in silage feeding.

#### Less Honey and Beeswax Produced in 1953

The U. S. produced 224 million pounds of honey in 1953—18 percent less than in 1952 and the smallest crop since 1948. Dry, hot weather over much of the country severely reduced yields. Beeswax production totaled 4 million pounds—15 percent less than in 1952.

#### Farmers Use More Electricity

Greater use of electricity on farms has brought farmers a record high average monthly electricity bill and a record low cost per kilowatt-hour.

		July 1947-51	July 1952	July 1953
Kwh used per farm	kwh	217	277	317
Average cost per kwh	ct.	3.1	2.9	2.8
Average monthly bill	dol.	6.61	7.90	8.80

#### Farm Employment Down Seasonally

A total of 5,951,000 people were employed on farms in late January. This compares with 6,390,000 in late December and 6,120,000 a year earlier. Total employment consisted of 5,032,000 farm operators and unpaid members of their families and 919,000 hired workers. Both types of workers were 3 percent fewer than a year earlier and down seasonally from a month earlier.

## CURRENT ESTIMATES

#### Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Marketing Margin and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost 1/	Farm value 2/	Marketing margin	Farmer's share
1952 average 3/ ...	\$1,028	\$482	\$546	47%
1952 - Dec. ....	1,025	469	556	46
1953 - Nov. 3/ .....	990	442	548	45
Dec. 4/ .....	995	445	550	45

1/ Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

2/ Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

3/ Revised.

4/ Preliminary.

For comparisons with earlier months and years see The Marketing and Transportation Situation.

#### Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings, By States, Dec. 1953 1/ 2/

State and Region	Livestock and products \$ Thous.	Crops \$ Thous.	Total \$ Thous.
Maine .....	8,371	4,568	12,939
New Hampshire .....	4,845	909	5,754
Vermont .....	7,359	743	8,102
Massachusetts .....	12,479	5,717	18,196
Rhode Island .....	1,551	530	2,081
Connecticut .....	11,997	4,271	15,278
New York .....	49,461	22,547	72,008
New Jersey .....	20,218	5,920	26,138
Pennsylvania .....	50,755	13,732	64,487
<i>North Atlantic</i> .....	<i>166,046</i>	<i>58,937</i>	<i>224,983</i>
Ohio .....	57,561	41,678	99,239
Indiana .....	59,776	39,079	98,855
Illinois .....	100,151	77,379	177,540
Michigan .....	35,698	21,054	56,752
Wisconsin .....	72,675	7,876	80,551
<i>East North Central</i> .....	<i>325,871</i>	<i>187,066</i>	<i>512,937</i>
Minnesota .....	77,581	43,944	121,525
Iowa .....	181,709	79,310	261,019
Missouri .....	54,779	32,857	87,636
North Dakota .....	13,882	29,717	43,599
South Dakota .....	34,841	28,387	63,228
Nebraska .....	61,227	42,215	103,442
Kansas .....	44,570	26,633	71,203
<i>West North Central</i> .....	<i>468,589</i>	<i>283,063</i>	<i>751,652</i>
Delaware .....	4,613	1,329	5,942
Maryland .....	12,583	3,461	16,044
Virginia .....	17,940	31,795	49,735
West Virginia .....	7,351	3,561	10,912
North Carolina .....	17,968	41,656	58,724
South Carolina .....	6,898	10,131	17,029
Georgia .....	19,227	24,280	43,507
Florida .....	9,731	42,016	51,747
<i>South Atlantic</i> .....	<i>95,411</i>	<i>158,229</i>	<i>253,640</i>
Kentucky .....	19,418	113,902	133,320
Tennessee .....	16,436	37,616	54,052
Alabama .....	13,481	18,740	32,221
Mississippi .....	10,191	49,893	60,084
Arkansas .....	12,407	32,075	44,482
Louisiana .....	8,307	46,527	54,834
Oklahoma .....	22,748	23,231	45,979
Texas .....	61,857	174,391	236,248
<i>South Central</i> .....	<i>164,845</i>	<i>496,375</i>	<i>661,220</i>
Montana .....	15,049	23,609	38,658
Idaho .....	12,515	18,826	31,341
Wyoming .....	6,599	3,545	10,144
Colorado .....	28,297	19,079	47,376
New Mexico .....	6,013	11,711	17,724
Arizona .....	7,273	33,680	40,953
Utah .....	9,895	3,368	13,263
Nevada .....	2,952	632	3,584
Washington .....	16,076	34,926	51,002
Oregon .....	14,493	15,909	30,402
California .....	83,700	201,338	285,038
<i>Western Region</i> .....	<i>202,862</i>	<i>366,623</i>	<i>569,485</i>
<i>United States</i> .....	<i>1,423,624</i>	<i>1,550,293</i>	<i>2,973,917</i>

1/ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month, minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month.

2/ For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Note: Revised estimates of 1953 cash receipts from farm marketings, by States and by months, will be published in the Farm Income Situation, to be released about March 4.

Cash Receipts from Farming, United States 1/

Source	Dec. 1953	Jan. 1954
	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.
Farm marketings and CCC loans <u>3/</u>	2,974	2,700
Livestock and products.....	1,424	1,400
Meat animals.....	739	
Dairy products.....	336	
Poultry and eggs.....	331	
Other.....	18	
Crops.....	1,550	1,300
Food grains.....	158	
Feed crops.....	309	
Cotton (lint and seed).....	436	
Oil crops.....	122	
Tobacco.....	181	
Vegetables.....	98	
Fruits and nuts.....	108	
Other.....	138	
Government payments.....	12	
Total cash receipts.....	2,986	

1/ For comparisons with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. Revisions for January–November 1953 will appear in the January–February 1954 issue, to be released about March 4.

2/ Preliminary.

3/ Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

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